

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 11 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of preventing hypocalcemia, wherein a vitamin D derivative selected from  $1\alpha$ -hydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  and 1, 25-dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  is transvaginally administered to a domestic mammal.

2. (Previously submitted) The method of preventing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 1, wherein the domestic mammal is a cow.

3. (Previously submitted) The method of preventing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 1, including administering an intravaginal insert containing the vitamin D derivative to a vaginal cavity.

4. (Previously submitted) The method of preventing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vitamin D derivative administered intravaginally is absorbed in the vaginal cavity of the domestic mammal to increase a calcium concentration in the body, thereby preventing the disease.

5. (Currently amended) The method of preventing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vitamin D derivative is  ~~$1\alpha$ -hydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  or 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$~~ .

6. (Currently amended) A method of curing hypocalcemia, including transvaginally administering a vitamin D derivative selected from  $1\alpha$ -hydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  and 1, 25-dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  to a domestic mammal.

7. (Previously submitted) The method of curing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 6, wherein the domestic mammal is a cow.

8. (Previously submitted) The method of curing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 6, including administering an intravaginal insert containing the vitamin D derivative to a vaginal cavity.

9. (Currently amended) The method of curing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 6, wherein the vitamin D derivative administered intravaginally is absorbed in the vaginal cavity of the domestic mammal to increase a calcium ~~concentration~~ concentration in the body, thereby curing the disease.

10. (Currently amended) The method of curing hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 6, wherein the vitamin D derivative is  ~~$1\alpha$ -hydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  or 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$~~ .

11. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypocalcemia, wherein a vitamin D derivative selected from  $1\alpha$ -hydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  and 1, 25-dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  is transvaginally administered to a domestic mammal.

12. (Previously submitted) The method of treating hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 11, wherein the domestic mammal is a cow.

13. (Previously submitted) The method of treating hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 11, including administering an intravaginal insert containing the vitamin D derivative to a vaginal cavity.

14. (Previously submitted) The method of treating hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vitamin D derivative administered intravaginally is absorbed in the vaginal cavity of the domestic mammal to increase a calcium concentration in the body, thereby treating the disease.

15. (Currently amended) The method of treating hypocalcemia as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vitamin D derivative is ~~1 $\alpha$ -hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>~~ to 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>.